

EXTERNAL TRADE OF QUEENSLAND.Three Months Ended 30th June, 1956.

During the three months ended 30th June, 1956, exports from Queensland were worth £67,708,674, of which £44,336,731 was to overseas destinations and £23,371,943 to other Australian States and Territories. Imports were valued at £58,499,013, of which £16,571,863 was from overseas and £41,927,150 from other States and Territories.

The quarter's external trade thus ended with a favourable balance of £9.2m. (excess of exports over imports). Corresponding quarters of the two previous years had shown exports as being practically balanced by imports, the June quarter of 1955 ending with a small export surplus of £0.5m., and the June quarter of 1954 with a small unfavourable balance of £0.6m. (excess of imports over exports).

The improved trade position in the recent quarter was due to higher figures for exports, which were valued at £67.7m., compared with £52.2m. and £59.0m. respectively in the corresponding quarters of 1954 and 1955. Exports both to overseas and to other States were greater in the June quarter of 1956 than in the corresponding quarter of 1955, overseas exports having risen from £39.4m. to £44.3m., and interstate exports from £19.7m. to £23.4m. The principal increases in overseas exports were in meats, sugar, blister copper, and titanium and zirconium ores, sands, &c., but the increases in these and other commodities were to some extent offset by smaller wool exports. Amongst interstate exports, the largest increases were in blister copper and sugar. Imports were of almost exactly the same value, £58.5m., in the June quarter of 1956 as in the corresponding quarter of 1955, and there was little change in the values of individual classes of commodities imported. However, imports from overseas decreased by £1.4m. from £18.0m. to £16.6m., while there was a corresponding increase in interstate imports from £40.5m. to £41.9m. The principal cause of this swing from overseas to interstate imports was a fall of nearly £1m. in imports of motor vehicles, cycles, and parts from overseas and a corresponding rise in imports of these articles from other States.

Twelve Months Ended 30th June, 1956.

Queensland's trade in the financial year ended 30th June, 1956, ended with a balance of exports over imports of £19.6m., which was twice as great as the corresponding balance in the previous financial year. This marked improvement on the previous year, however, still left the State's trade balance lower than can be expected in years of good exports, the balances in 1952-53 and 1953-54 being £59.7m. and £41.2m. respectively.

External trade of the State during the financial year 1955-56 is summarised below and compared with corresponding figures for the year 1954-55 (in brackets).

				Thousand £.		
				Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Exports.
<u>Overseas and Interstate Trade.</u>						
Overseas .. .. .	..	..	..	152,138 (154,480)	61,730 (68,883)	90,408 (85,597)
Other States .. ..	..	..	..	90,588 (78,045)	161,445 (153,811)	70,857* (75,766*)
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	242,726 (232,525)	223,175 (222,694)	19,551 (9,831)
<u>Main Commodity Groups.</u>						
Foodstuffs of animal origin ..	..	..	..	46,763 (45,544)	4,069 (4,046)	42,694 (41,498)
Foodstuffs, &c. of vegetable origin .. .. .	..	..	..	65,893 (67,364)	17,750 (17,817)	48,143 (49,547)
Animal & vegetable substances (not foodstuffs) .. ..	..	..	..	70,784 (74,930)	11,729 (14,690)	59,055 (60,240)
Apparel and textiles .. ..	..	..	..	4,498 (4,199)	35,676 (35,960)	31,178* (31,761*)
Oils, fats, and waxes .. ..	..	..	..	3,539 (3,399)	12,903 (11,504)	9,364* (8,105*)
Minerals, metals, and manufactures thereof .. ..	..	..	..	36,722 (26,330)	91,479 (89,749)	54,757* (63,419*)
Other items .. .. .	..	..	..	14,527 (10,759)	49,569 (48,928)	35,042* (38,169*)
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	242,726 (232,525)	223,175 (222,694)	19,551 (9,831)

* Excess of imports.

The improvement of nearly £10m. in Queensland's trade balance in 1955-56 compared with 1954-55 was due to a rise in exports from £232.5m. to £242.7m., as imports at £223.2m. were practically the same as in the previous year.

Overseas exports, at £152.1m., were £2.3m. less than in the previous year, but exports to other States rose by £12.5m. to £90.6m. Amongst overseas exports, wool valued at £48.9m. was £8.3m. less than in 1954-55, sugar was down by £6.5m., and lead by £1.5m. On the other hand, some items showing large increases were copper, £5.9m. (increase £4.3m.);

wheat, £3.6m. (increase £2.5m.); and titanium and zirconium ores, sands, &c., £4.7m. (increase £2.0m.). Exports to other States, like those to overseas, showed a big increase in blister copper, its value of £9.3m. being £4.4m. more than in the previous year. Unlike overseas exports, there were no items showing substantial reductions compared with the previous year, and increases in the value of many commodities exported interstate, particularly in sugar, vegetables and fruit (fresh and preserved), live animals, rubber and rubber manufactures, and plywood and veneers, added to the big increase in copper exports to make the big total increase of £12.5m. in interstate exports.

Compared with 1954-55, Australia's external trade balance improved in 1955-56 by £30.3m., showing an excess of imports of £39.3m., compared with an excess of £69.6m. in the earlier year. Queensland's improvement of £9.7m., in raising its excess of exports from £9.8m. to £19.6m., was, in proportion to population, even more satisfactory. Of the total value of overseas exports of £781.8m. from Australia in 1955-56, Queensland provided £152.1m., or 19.5 per cent.

Exports of goods from Queensland destined for ultimate consumption overseas nearly all go directly to overseas from ports in the State, while interstate exports chiefly consist of goods to be used in other States. There is thus very little indirect shipment of Queensland produce abroad via other States. On the other hand, a large proportion of Queensland's imports from abroad are purchased through other States and are thus recorded amongst the interstate imports. No record of the extent of this indirect overseas import trade is available to enable it to be separated from other interstate imports, but an estimate of its volume is made below on the assumption that Queensland relies upon overseas goods to the same extent per head of population as does Australia as a whole. Figures on this basis for the last three years are as follows.

			<u>1953-54.</u>	<u>1954-55.</u>	<u>1955-56.</u>
			£m.	£m.	£m.
Exports - Oversea	..	..	165.1	154.5	152.1
Other States	..	..	75.4	78.0	90.6
<u>Total</u>	..	..	<u>240.5</u>	<u>232.5</u>	<u>242.7</u>
Imports - Oversea direct	..	..	55.6	68.9	61.7
Oversea via States	..	..	44.0	54.2	57.6
Other States	..	..	99.7	99.6	103.9
<u>Total</u>	..	..	<u>199.3</u>	<u>222.7</u>	<u>223.2</u>

During the past three financial years, as the above figures show, Queensland's total exports have been approximately maintained at a steady value, some decrease in the value of exports overseas having been made up by an increase in shipments to other States.

Queensland's purchases of the produce of other States, according to the above estimates, have provided an annual market here for approximately £100m. worth of such goods. Higher total imports in 1954-55 compared with 1953-54 were due to bigger purchases of goods from overseas, imported either direct or through southern States, while a drop in direct overseas purchases in 1955-56 was partly made up by an increase in imports of overseas goods through other States and partly through a relatively smaller increase in imports of products of southern States.

The attached tables provide detailed figures for overseas and interstate trade during the three months ended 30th June, 1956, and the financial year ended on the same date. Table 1 shows values of exports, table 2 values of imports, and table 3 quantities exported and imported of certain selected commodities for which quantities are available.

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BRISBANE.

5th February, 1957.

Table 1.

Value of Exports from Queensland, Three Months and Twelve Months Ended June, 1956.

Commodity.	Three Months Ended June, 1956.		Twelve Months Ended June, 1956.	
	To Overseas.	To Other States.	To Overseas.	To Other States.
	£	£	£	£
Beef & veal, fresh or pres. by cold process	4,207,104	537,863	18,626,966	1,153,842
Other meat, &c. " " " " " "	451,167	117,039	1,609,819	381,014
Bacon and hams	22,976	191,588	107,626	783,508
Meat, poultry, &c.- preserved in tins, &c.	2,372,869	191,196	8,689,515	798,125
Butter	3,731,760	709,796	9,574,050	2,034,049
Cheese	289,444	117,253	566,198	492,367
Eggs, in shell or pulped	63,369	-	254,985	19,277
Other foodstuffs of animal origin ..	435,567	95,138	1,294,283	377,816
<u>Total foodstuffs of animal origin ..</u>	<u>11,574,256</u>	<u>1,959,873</u>	<u>40,723,442</u>	<u>6,039,998</u>
Wheat	1,057,947	2,707	3,615,559	9,658
Sorghum	226,648	44,840	392,455	58,574
Other grains, unprepared or simply prepared	635,333	107,722	1,678,887	340,104
Flour, wheaten	289,696	129,612	873,494	375,784
Vegetables, fresh	3,231	537,710	21,062	2,911,336
Fruit, fresh	12,686	311,480	30,205	1,313,802
Fruit, preserved in liquid or pulped ..	1,058,281	325,428	3,184,750	2,114,467
Peanuts, including paste	-	338,801	-	1,149,479
Sugar, raw or refined	6,159,382	4,706,600	24,298,891	21,379,886
Other foodstuffs of veg. origin, beverages	141,728	390,382	525,879	1,618,621
<u>Total foodstuffs of vegetable origin and beverages</u>	<u>9,584,932</u>	<u>6,895,282</u>	<u>34,621,182</u>	<u>31,271,711</u>
Tobacco, unmanufactured	-	228,973	12,159	1,168,981
Manufactures of tobacco	6,092	128,402	21,280	487,933
Live animals	44,333	3,770,916	249,020	13,544,788
Hides and skins	522,109	157,841	1,502,644	972,477
Wool, greasy or scoured	13,348,101	220,241	48,889,942	447,822
Other animal substances, not food ..	199,526	75,212	924,175	218,980
Vegetable subs. & fibres, incl. raw cotton	581,863	653,058	1,371,703	972,183
<u>Total animals, animal and vegetable sub- stances, tobacco</u>	<u>14,702,024</u>	<u>5,234,643</u>	<u>52,970,923</u>	<u>17,813,164</u>
Yarns, piece goods, and textiles	21,287	455,093	90,565	1,795,838
Apparel	35,509	588,370	95,364	2,516,562
Tallow	253,096	95,857	678,310	472,524
Animal and vegetable oils and fats ..	138,522	91,340	448,403	646,544
Oils, fats, and waxes, n.e.i.	6,352	184,587	539,592	753,243
Coal	-	66,166	-	362,451
Copper - blister, ingots, scrap, &c. ..	3,157,473	2,717,207	5,854,053	9,257,269
Lead, in metallic form or matte	1,580,975	4,889	4,888,574	10,093
Titanium and zirconium ores, sands, &c. ..	1,860,286	310	4,713,522	898
Other metals, ores, sands, & concentrates	404,130	341,356	1,835,971	1,517,839
Motor vehicles & cycles, cycles, & parts ..	8,453	645,326	46,655	2,594,611
Machines and machinery	142,143	599,791	588,747	2,378,933
Other metal manufactures	176,218	648,197	595,228	2,077,259
Rubber and rubber manufactures	26,029	848,628	57,073	3,439,949
Leather and leather manufactures	76,041	192,985	223,447	678,843
Timber, including logs	19,347	70,714	180,129	486,208
Plywood and veneers	55,839	910,985	103,957	3,287,893
Other items, n.e.i.	513,819	820,344	2,882,794	3,186,929
<u>Total other commodities</u>	<u>8,475,519</u>	<u>9,282,145</u>	<u>23,822,384</u>	<u>35,463,886</u>
<u>Total value of all exports</u>	<u>44,336,731</u>	<u>23,371,943</u>	<u>152,137,931</u>	<u>90,588,759</u>

Table 2.

Value of Imports into Queensland, Three Months and Twelve Months Ended June, 1956.

Commodity.	Three Months Ended June, 1956.		Twelve Months Ended June, 1956.	
	From Overseas.	From Other States.	From Overseas.	From Other States.
	£	£	£	£
Meat, poultry, &c.- fresh or preserved ..	-	170,424	1,392	501,394
Milk and cream, including infants' food ..	2,176	333,013	2,246	1,774,852
Fish, fresh or preserved	148,843	67,469	729,984	360,325
Other foodstuffs of animal origin ..	9,215	226,063	57,003	642,010
<u>Total foodstuffs of animal origin ..</u>	<u>160,234</u>	<u>796,969</u>	<u>790,625</u>	<u>3,278,581</u>
Potatoes, fresh	-	854,591	-	1,551,838
Other fresh vegetables	-	317,919	-	807,814
Fruit, fresh	-	325,613	-	1,501,117
Fruit, dried or evaporated	34,011	125,330	36,370	389,532
Fruit & vegetables, preserved in liquid, &c.	3,320	522,527	22,209	1,552,578
Tea	430,966	3,985	1,723,670	89,199
Coffee and cocoa	42,967	272,652	134,932	742,044
Confectionery	1,613	687,710	7,588	2,243,927
Other foodstuffs of vegetable origin ..	49,163	1,051,680	217,370	3,924,134
Ale, beer, and porter	1,871	259,900	10,981	1,669,331
Wine and spirits	26,036	234,862	107,136	1,018,131
<u>Total foodstuffs, &c., of vegetable origin</u>	<u>589,947</u>	<u>4,656,769</u>	<u>2,260,256</u>	<u>15,489,645</u>
Tobacco, manufactured or unmanufactured ..	10,655	1,452,077	130,406	6,219,802
Live animals	2,891	698,541	3,093	2,610,105
Wool, greasy or scoured	-	141,032	-	1,267,654
Other animal & veg. subs., mainly unmanufd.	162,202	265,364	605,572	892,620
<u>Total animals, animal and vegetable sub-</u> <u>stances, tobacco</u>	<u>175,748</u>	<u>2,557,014</u>	<u>739,071</u>	<u>10,990,181</u>
Yarns, threads, cordage, and twines ..	92,865	449,271	326,061	1,239,466
Bags and sacks	1,123,900	93,288	2,432,233	319,119
Piece goods, blankets, and towels ..	1,168,741	1,363,967	4,812,567	5,996,353
Linoleum	88,179	83,055	457,056	414,443
Carpets and floor coverings, n.e.i. ..	93,776	114,918	482,505	524,779
Textiles, n.e.i.	38,252	435,552	208,208	1,627,467
Footwear	6,530	710,830	62,808	2,935,042
Apparel, n.e.i.	73,636	3,276,082	315,837	13,522,446
<u>Total yarns, fibres, textiles, & apparel</u>	<u>2,685,879</u>	<u>6,526,963</u>	<u>9,097,275</u>	<u>26,579,115</u>
Kerosene	256,137	1,529	1,159,076	29,801
Lubricating mineral oil	227,411	115,046	724,422	520,836
Petroleum and shale oils	1,950,151	472,948	7,079,692	2,401,130
Oils, fats, and waxes, n.e.i.	39,706	252,918	163,058	824,805
Pigments, paints, varnishes	129,275	467,048	341,307	2,002,759
<u>Total oils, paints, &c.</u>	<u>2,602,680</u>	<u>1,309,489</u>	<u>9,467,555</u>	<u>5,779,331</u>
Rocks and minerals	68,407	101,412	463,721	538,041
Iron and steel, plate and sheet, galv., &c.	978	695,413	184,079	2,756,992
" " " , " " " , other ..	670,260	871,574	2,229,423	2,413,961
" " " , pipes and tubes	16,186	375,135	103,945	1,975,845
" " " , other	457,624	1,895,725	2,130,781	6,213,660
Non-ferrous metals	25,192	319,527	92,810	1,356,358
Kitchenware, including heating appliances	30,873	351,785	209,365	1,164,088
Hardware, including tools	167,203	814,835	599,816	3,244,922
Other metal manufactures, except machinery	842,058	694,983	1,842,268	2,926,955
Railway and tramway vehicles, incl. locos.	56,743	140,566	121,828	565,794
Motor vehicles & cycles, cycles, and parts	1,580,805	4,548,340	6,671,170	16,340,713
Tractors and parts	824,855	1,053,721	3,375,328	3,827,321
Electrical apparatus and machinery ..	656,711	2,294,358	2,619,629	8,542,708
Household machines	26,535	887,914	151,158	4,489,935
Agricultural, &c. machines and implements	139,764	900,095	776,536	3,409,297
Other machinery	1,214,753	1,296,574	4,670,767	5,470,097
<u>Total minerals, metals, metal manuf., &c.</u>	<u>6,778,947</u>	<u>17,241,957</u>	<u>26,242,624</u>	<u>65,236,687</u>

Table 2 (continued).

Value of Imports into Queensland, Three Months and Twelve Months Ended June, 1956.

Commodity.	Three Months Ended June, 1956.		Twelve Months Ended June, 1956.	
	From Overseas.	From Other States.	From Overseas.	From Other States.
	£	£	£	£
Rubber tyres and tubes	42,710	905,380	154,347	3,706,974
Other rubber and rubber manufactures ..	373,079	399,204	1,708,997	1,348,581
Timber, including logs	152,586	34,529	808,650	176,031
Furniture, wood and wicker manufactures ..	34,921	79,273	114,754	345,727
Portland cement	1,679	2,604	4,219	5,859
Glass and glassware	98,937	155,485	467,935	595,695
Crockery and household ware, n.e.i. ..	151,554	65,529	628,526	329,697
Other earthenware, china, stoneware, &c. ..	57,454	177,143	172,906	691,662
Paper, paper boards, pulp	776,753	847,357	2,423,615	2,754,350
Stationery and paper manufactures, books ..	174,533	590,516	769,102	2,321,716
Jewellery, &c., fancy and sporting goods ..	116,717	511,720	607,535	2,397,761
Scientific instruments and appliances ..	166,054	259,809	458,446	1,047,378
Medical & toilet preparations, soap, drugs, &c.	68,033	1,921,957	250,151	6,956,191
Fertilisers	213,500	411,265	740,159	2,041,740
Other drugs and chemicals	209,693	976,277	709,247	3,616,486
Other goods	940,225	1,499,941	3,114,254	5,755,908
<u>Total other commodities</u>	<u>3,578,428</u>	<u>8,837,989</u>	<u>13,132,843</u>	<u>34,091,756</u>
<u>Total value of all imports</u>	<u>16,571,863</u>	<u>41,927,150</u>	<u>61,730,249</u>	<u>161,445,296</u>

Table 3.

Quantities of Certain Commodities Exported and Imported, Queensland.

Commodity.	Unit.	Three Months Ended June, 1956.		Twelve Months Ended June, 1956.	
		Total Exports.	Total Imports.	Total Exports.	Total Imports.
Beef and veal - fresh, chilled, or frozen	cwt.	637,910	n	2,539,809	n
Meat, poultry, &c.- preserved in tins, &c.	cwt.	164,694	7,902	559,566	25,517
Milk and cream, incl. infants' and in- valids' food	cwt.	n	24,360	n	142,815
Fish, fresh or preserved	cwt.	n	13,185	n	62,724
Butter	cwt.	262,192	n	649,179	n
Wheat	bush.	1,553,888	261	5,187,541	1,082
Maize	bush.	135,640	n	326,880	n
Millet and panicum	tons	7,174	n	16,361	n
Sorghum	tons	14,564	n	24,152	n
Flour, wheaten	tons	14,917	n	41,804	n
Potatoes	tons	n	9,976	n	21,247
Pineapples, fresh	bush.	179,948	n	887,321	n
Dates, raisins, sultanas, &c. ..	lb.	n	2,582,146	n	4,522,318
Other dried or evaporated fruits ..	lb.	111,222	593,756	317,458	1,776,724
Pineapples, preserved in liquid ..	cwt.	145,448	n	531,621	n
Other fruit preserved in liquid ..	cwt.	23,650	20,851	120,495	70,800
Peanuts, including peanut paste ..	lb.	5,238,484	n	17,643,948	n
Sugar, raw or refined	tons	239,402	n	1,034,126	n
Tea	lb.	n	2,061,960	n	7,340,745
Confectionery	lb.	n	3,963,821	n	13,199,792
Ale, beer, and porter	gals.	n	294,728	n	2,161,841
Tobacco, unmanufactured	lb.	391,550	11,610	1,912,939	666,102
Cattle	number	150,030	28,165	478,898	87,303
Sheep	number	93,151	55,504	306,435	234,169
Wool, greasy	lb.	41,966,345	459,736	154,813,637	4,587,204
Wool, scoured, &c.	lb.	2,790,967	1,424	11,502,679	66,010
Kerosene	gals.	n	4,762,397	n	22,446,277
Other fuel oils	gals.	n	40,796,555	n	148,499,425
Timber, including logs	sup.ft.	1,402,414	5,927,072	9,710,664	29,001,126
Plywood	sq.ft.	23,878,191	n	83,482,237	n
Veneers	sq.ft.	4,691,909	n	10,383,990	n

n Not recorded separately, but nil or only a small quantity.